



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

We invite you to join the partnership. You can become a Reserve Police Officer, join a Community Neighborhood Watch Group, attend the Citizen's Police Academy, become a Police Volunteer, participate in a citizen ride-along or just communicate your concerns and ideas to our Officers.

Together, we can make a difference!

For more information contact:

COMMUNITY ACTION
&
INFORMATION UNIT
(650) 903-6357 OR (650) 903-6707

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HOW CAN PARENTS
PROTECT THEIR
CHILDREN FROM
PEDOPHILES ROAMING
THE INTERNET?

MOUNTAIN VIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT

NINE SIMPLE GUIDELINES-

PEDOPHILES HAVE A NEW PLAYGROUND ON WHICH TO
ATTRACT CHILDREN - THE INTERNET

Kids love computers, and talking on the Internet is largely anonymous. The combination is potentially dangerous as has been made clear from the many media reports on children who have been "lured" over the Information Superhighway.

Pedophiles use fake names and can be from anywhere in the country. What's more, they are experts at manipulating children.

"It really doesn't take us long to connect with a pedophile, usually only two or three minutes," said Sergeant Nick Battaglia, who patrols the information superhighway each day for the San Jose Police Department. "They are out there waiting to prey on these children."

The risks to children who use the Internet include:

- Exposure to sexual or violent material
- Arrangement of a meeting that leads to molestation
- Harassing messages

What can parents do to protect their children from this new avenue for child predators?

Plenty, according to the experts. Here are nine guidelines that will help keep your child safer while using the Internet:

- Give your child the important personal safety knowledge that will keep them safe from child predators in any situation, including playgrounds, malls, your neighborhood, and the Internet. Many of the same rules apply.
- Monitor your child's use of on line services, just as you would any of your child's entertainment activities.
- Get to know the on line services your child uses.
- Advise your child that the people they talk to on line may not be who they say they are. Anyone can say they are a 12 year old boy who likes computers.
- Instruct your child to never give out any personal information such as home address, phone number, or school names to anyone they talk to on line.
- Advise your child not to arrange a face to face meeting with anyone without your permission. If they want to meet with someone you should monitor the meeting and make sure it is a public place.
- Advise your child to never respond to threatening or obscene messages.
- Set rules and guidelines for your child's computer use.
- Look into services that will help put safeguards in place to help make sure that children cannot access adult content bulletin boards.